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We are promised a picture of "Oriental magnificence," at Banvard's Opera House very soon, in the shape of a grand spectacular play entitled, the "Devil's Auction," in which the "Black Crook" is to be outstripped and its nakedness put to shame. Wallack's, which has been closed for a week, will probably re-open next Monday evening; in the mean time extensive alterations and decorations have been made in the stage and auditorium. The opening pieces will be a new comedy, "Meg's Diversion," and a new burlesque, "Black Eyed Susan, or the Little Bill that was taken up." A promising programme.

SHUGGE.

## Watson's Art Journal.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, SEPT. 21, 1867.

PUBLICATION OFFICE, 806 BROADWAY.

### NOTICE TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS IN ARREARS.

We enclose bills to-day to those of our subscribers who have not paid their subscriptions due in April last, and request immediate attention to the same. Our terms are in advance, and it is not fair nor just to neglect so small an affair to individuals, although the aggregate of two or three hundred subscriptions delayed six months after due, is a serious matter to a publisher. We hope for immediate attention to this notice.

To those subscribers who are two or three years in our debt, we presume it is useless to send notification; but we merely suggest that we do not calculate to furnish free reading to those who engaged to pay for it.

WATSON'S ART JOURNAL OFFICE,  
806 Broadway.

### ITALIAN OPERA.

Mr. Max Maretzek's programme for the first week of his Fall season has been issued, and offers a very varied and excellent selection. The opera chosen for the opening night is Mozart's immortal work Don Giovanni. This opera is considered so sure a card, that it is generally reserved for extra nights, and rarely fails to attract a crowded miscellaneous audience. Mr. Maretzek, however, has awarded its first performance on his opening subscription night, which is literally giving away from three to four thousand dollars—a more liberal movement, we think than circumstances warrant.

The cast of the opera is very strong, the leading rôles being apportioned to Madam Parepa Rosa, Miss A. M. Hauck, Mlle Ronconi; Signor Baragi, Signor Bellini, and Signor Ronconi. Such a combination of

talent surely guarantees a performance of rare excellence. The chorus will present the usual efficiency, which has become a specialty at this establishment.

The crowning glory of the performance however, will be the execution of Mozart's superb instrumentation by the large and admirable orchestra, under the direction of Carl Bergmann. To listen to this, alone, would be worth a day's journey. With such a selection, and with such a force to carry it out, we cannot but believe the Fall season of the Italian opera will commence most brilliantly.

INHOSPITABLE.—It is said that although Leopold de Meyer has only been in the country a few days, he has already been "sold."

### THE FRENCH OPERA COMIQUE.

Mr. Bateman has decided that the inauguration of the season of French Opera Comique, shall be on Tuesday next, September the 24th, on which occasion will be produced, Offenbach's latest success, "The Grand Duchess of Gerolstein." This opera has met with the most extraordinary success not only in Paris, where Offenbach is the humorous divinity, but throughout Europe. Offenbach must be satiated by universal popularity, for his operas, like an epidemic, run through every city of Europe. Wherever one appears it is transferred thence in an incredibly short time, to every city or town that can boast of an opera house.

Offenbach's music is essentially of a light and sparkling character, but it is all thoroughly well written. He is a master both of the vocal and instrumental score, so that while the classicists sneer at his frivolity, (which the people worship) they are compelled to admit his thorough ability. His great forte is said to be his *ensemble* pieces, which are ingenious in their construction, and brilliant and effective in their climaxes. In fact Offenbach is the idol of the amusement seeking public—of those who think there is medicament in a laugh—of those who love sparkling, out-pouring melody, and for these reasons his works leap into popularity, and always enjoy an uninterrupted run of from one hundred to three hundred nights.

We think that Offenbach's music, wedded as it is to ingenious and interesting libretti, will hit the taste of the American public, and will prove permanently attractive. Mr. Bateman has used every exertion that experience could suggest, and has spared no expenss to produce these works in a style of unexceptionable excellence. His company is unusually large and complete, comprising the following artists, some of them of high reputation in Paris:

Mlle. Lucille Tostee,	Mons Guiffroy,
Mlle. Cluquet de Felcourt,	Mons Lucienne,
Mlle. Isabella Armand,	Mons Lagriffoul,
Mlle. Margueritte,	Mons Leduo,
Mlle. Mathilde,	Mons Monier,
Madame Duchêne,	Mons Benedick,
Madame Molier.	Mons Valer.

A full and efficient orchestra and chorus, selected from the principal Parisian theatres by Mr. Bateman, will complete the musical departments of this liberal enterprise. The costumes and appointments which are all imported, are superb, and the scenery has been prepared upon a grand scale, so that if well directed efforts, fine talent, popular works, and lavish expenditure can secure success, Mr. Bateman may count upon a prosperous and brilliant season.

COMFORTING.—We learn that the rumor that Leopold de Meyer has been "sold," is not true. On the contrary, he has been "bought."

BANVARD'S OPERA HOUSE AND MUSEUM.—In addition to the many brilliant artists who are to take part in the new Grand Spectacular and Magical play, "The Devil's Auction," about to be produced at the above establishment, and whose names we recently announced, the following eminent artists arrived last week by the steamer Atlantic from Brest: Mlle. Eumisildi Diani, Mlle. Ernestine Supper and Mons. Giovanni Supper. This will be the strongest and the best ballet company ever presented to the American public.

CORRECTION.—Supposing that de Meyer may be admired, he's been neither "bought" nor "sold," but "hired."

### BOOK NOTICES.

We have received from Ticknor & Fields the ninth volume of the Diamond Edition of Dickens. This volume contains the whole of his wonderful novel, "Bleak House," in which he has developed some of his most remarkable characters, and in which he attacked with irresistible power, because truthfully, earnestly and fearlessly, one of the most hopeless, inane, cruel, useless, and how-to-prevent-anything-being-ended institutions that ever encumbered and prevented the course of justice. It has been generally conceded that Dickens is due the total reformation of the Court of Chancery—a Court that was sustained by the wholesale pillage of the young and the old, whose every step was overwithered hopes and broken hearts, and whose code and practice nobly illustrated the old legal joke—a shell for each of the clients, and the oyster for the lawyers.

Mr. S. Eytinge, junr., the illustrator of this edition of Dickens' works, has hardly been as successful in idealizing the strong characters of this work as in some of the preceding numbers; still, he has invested some